

Public Affairs Office, Task Force Hope - New Orleans Update
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NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans has nearly pumped the metro area dry and continues to increase interim levee protection to plus 10-foot elevation.

Eight helicopters placed nearly 1,000 bags yesterday in the Citrus Lands area of **Plaquemines Parish**, and closing nearly 90 percent of the smaller breaches at Citrus South. After five days of placing sandbags and stone, the Scarsdale breach is still 12- to 18-feet deep. The breach may take another 4,000 sandbags to fill, though the Corps is investigating other methods of filling the breach, such as sinking a barge at the site.

Task Force Unwatering is pumping approximately 1,818 cfs out of Plaquemines Parish. Corps' Memphis District teams continue to operate mobile pumps in the parish.

The Corps' environmental team was also in Plaquemines Parish today and will be there again tomorrow to assess the situation there.

In **St. Bernard Parish**, repairs to the hurricane protection levee along the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal have begun with levee foundation preparation. Corps' contractors are also continuing maintenance work at pump stations here to ensure long-term operations.

Homes in the Michoud subdivision, **East Orleans Parish**, are all out of water and roads are accessible despite some water on the ground. The Corps is providing debris teams the locations of downed trees that are blocking access to some parts of the area.

Pump Station 15 is back on the electrical power grid and all three pumps will be operating soon, Corps officials say. Unwatering operations may be completed in the area today or tomorrow.

In **Orleans Parish**, the canal closure at the 17th Street Canal has been opened 40 feet, but the London Avenue Canal closure is still in place. Contractors are placing dense-grade aggregate on the south breach along the east side of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

Corps contractors plan to have two of seven pumps operable at Pump Station 5 in the next two weeks or so. Up until recently water was naturally draining to St. Bernard Parish Pump stations' 1 and 6, but lower water and debris is now preventing flow. German teams are operating temporary pumps at sites throughout Orleans Parish, including at Pump Station 5. Two pumps were delivered to Pump Station 5 and a third pump is being transported there.

Engineers also set out more temporary pumps in **Terrebonne Parish** and began those pumping operations today.

